

# ACCIDENTS



**A CHILD-to-child Reader**

## How these stories were written

The authors of these stories have lived and worked in countries all over the world in Africa, the Caribbean, the Far East, India and Latin America. Some are doctors and some specialists in primary education and language teaching.

Paula Edwards, the editor, was formerly a nurse, has a PhD degree in the field of language and now teaches at the University of Cardiff.

They wrote these stories because they believe that Health Education should be taught through all subjects in the curriculum. They know that young children love stories and have tried to make these stories interesting and fun to read.





# ACCIDENTS

**HUGH HAWES**

with help from other members of the group

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by

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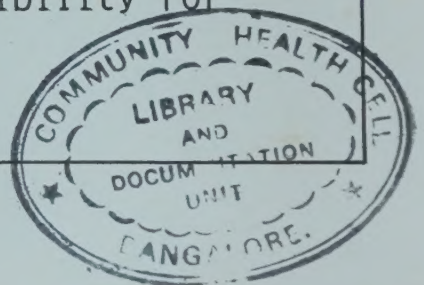
*English Reader Level 1*

## MAINLY FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Every year thousands of children are hurt and many die in accidents in the home, outside it and on the road. Among the most common of all accidents are burns, caused by upsetting stoves and cooking pots.

Many of these burns could be prevented if young children were watched more carefully and if fires and stoves were raised.

This reader shows how important it is to look out for 'accident places' in the house and outside and how important it is to watch babies and little children all the time. It shows how older children, both boys and girls, should help take responsibility for the little ones.



3016

CH 140



This is our house. You can see it is near the market. There is a garden behind it but in front we are very near the road.

I live in the house with my mother and father and my brother who is six and my sister who is a baby. The school is at the other end of the village. We walk to school along the road.



"Alice," says my mother. "Always hold your brother's hand when you go to school and when you walk through the village and along the road."

"Alice," says my father. "Always look when you cross the road."

Look one way.

Look the other way.

Look right and left."





At home my mother says, "Alice, always look after baby. Baby can crawl near the fire. Baby can drink from bottles in the kitchen. Baby can fall down and cut her leg. Take care of Baby. Watch Baby. Look after Baby."

So I do what they say, but sometimes I am angry. I say, "Why can't my brother go to school alone? Why do I always have to go with him? Why can't I run with my friends along the road?"



Sometimes I do not want to look after Baby. I say, "Why can't some other people look after her? I want to play. I want to make things. I don't want to run after her all the time."

My mother's friend Mrs Musoke lives in this house. It is the house next to my house. My mother's friend is fat and laughs a lot. We all like her. She cooks good food and plays with us. She sings to us and tells stories. She always laughs. When good things happen she laughs. When bad things happen she laughs. So we all call her Mrs Ha Ha.





Mr Musoke is very fat. He drives a bus and he drives it very fast. He does not come home in the day. He comes home at night and eats the food she cooks. He eats and eats and drinks a lot of beer. He laughs and plays the radio. We call him Mr Ha Ha Ha because he is so big.



There are many boys and girls. They are fat too. There is a little boy called Julius, who laughs like his father. We call him "Little Ha" because he is small. Julius is six like my brother. He goes to school alone.

There is also Baby Ha. He crawls all round the house and laughs. No-one looks after Baby Ha all the time.





Mrs Ha Ha's house is not clean. There are things all over the floor. There are hoes on the floor. There are pots on the floor. Chickens run round the floor.



Mr. Ha Ha Ha always puts his good clothes on the floor

..... his good shirt

..... his good coat

..... his good hat





Mrs Ha Ha cooks on a stove on the floor. It is a paraffin stove. She puts the paraffin in a bottle. She puts the bottle on the floor. Mrs Ha Ha puts her cook pots on the floor and her knives on the floor and the matches on the floor.

My mother went to see Mrs Ha Ha. She told her, "Don't put things on the floor. The Baby can have an accident. The knives can cut baby. Baby can drink from the bottles."

Mrs Ha Ha laughed at her.



2016

CHH



Near the house there is long grass. Rats live in the long grass. Last week I think I saw a snake.

Mr Ha Ha Ha came home. My mother said to him, "Snakes live in the long grass. Why don't you cut it? The little girl can have an accident."

Mr. Ha Ha Ha laughed at her. He went in to the house and played the radio and drank beer.





I said to Julius Ha, "Do not play on the road. There are cars on the road and buses." Julius laughed at me. I said to Julius, "Look after baby. Baby can crawl near the fire and have an accident."

"No," said Julius. "You look after him. Girls have to look after babies. You are a girl. I am a boy. I am going to play." And he ran away.



I was afraid for that baby. One day he cut his foot. One day he took the bottle of paraffin off the floor and began to drink it. I ran and took the bottle away from him.





I was afraid for Julius and his little sister. One day they played in the long grass. I saw the grass move near them. I ran up and took them away.



I was afraid of the cars on the road. One day Julius ran on to the road after his ball in front of Mr Ha Ha Ha and his bus. I ran and took Julius away. I told his mother. She laughed at me.

I was afraid for Mr Ha Ha Ha and for the people in his bus. He drives so fast. Last month he had an accident.





I did not tell Mr Ha Ha Ha. I went to talk to my teacher. "Yes," said my teacher, "many children in this village have accidents

..... on the road  
..... with snakes  
..... with bees  
..... in their houses.

Some get cuts on their feet and do not wash them. So the cuts go bad and the children must go to hospital. Last year ten children in the village had burns. Two of them died."



"How did they get burns?" I asked.

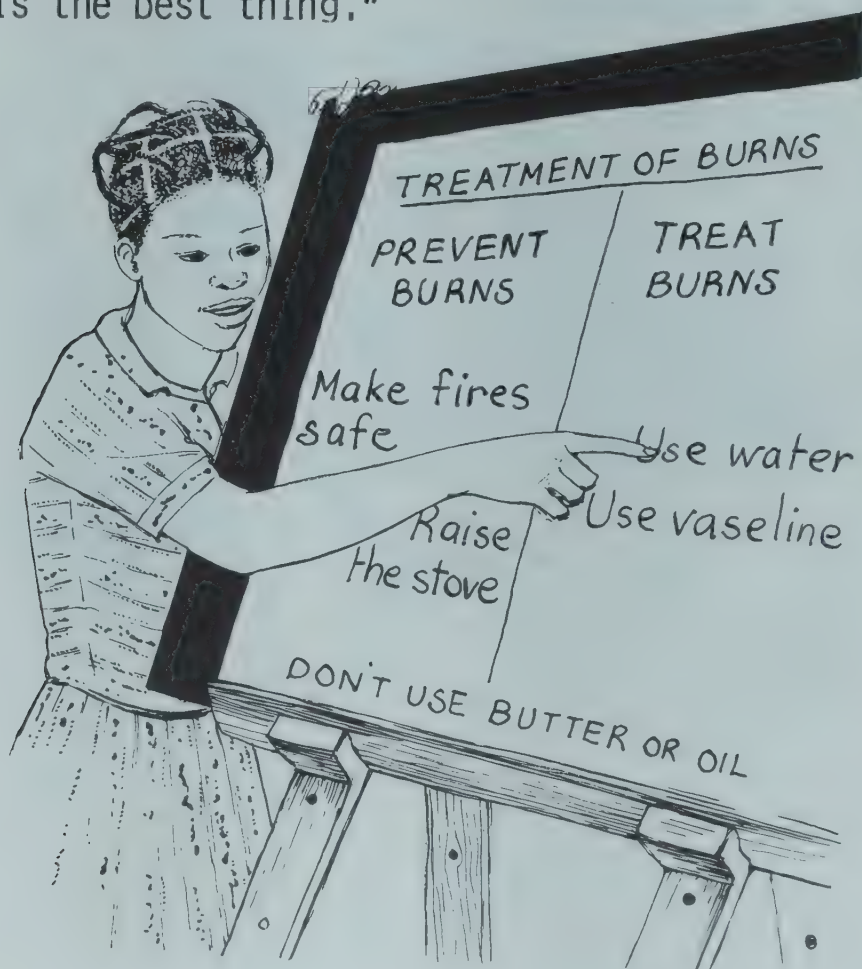
"They were little children," said my teacher.

"They crawled near the fire. The hot food was on the fire. The cook pot fell on them."

Then I told her about Mrs Ha Ha's baby. "He always goes near the stove," I said.

"That baby will have an accident," said my teacher. "Try to stop him."

"Put cold water on the burn," said my teacher. "If the burn is very bad, put his body into water. That is the best thing."





I ran home. Mrs Ha Ha was near the house, Julius Ha was near the road with his ball. The little girl was near the long grass. Mr Ha Ha Ha was not there. There was a smell of good food. "Where is baby?" I asked. Julius Ha laughed at me. Mrs Ha Ha laughed at me.

"You always want to look after baby," said Julius Ha.



"Waaah ... " There was a cry from the house.  
The chickens ran out of the house, "Waaah ... Waaah ... "

I ran into the house. Baby was on the floor crying and crying. And that was not all. The stove was on its side on the floor. The cook pot was on the floor. The bed was on fire. Mr Ha Ha Ha's good clothes were on fire. "Help me, help me," I called.





My mother ran in. Mrs Ha Ha ran in. We took the baby and ran outside with it. I ran for water. We put cold water on baby's burn. Thank God it was not very bad.

But outside the house the fire burned. Mr Ha Ha Ha's clothes burned. The bed burned. In the end we put out the fire. But Mr Ha Ha Ha's clothes will be no good to him any more.



03016

CH 112

Mr Ha Ha Ha came back. He was angry. "My bus had an accident," he said. "It will not go." Then he saw the house.

"Look at my good shirt," he cried,

"Look at my good coat,

Look at the bed,

Where is my food?"

Then he saw the baby. "Why did the baby get a burn?" he cried.





Mrs Ha Ha was very angry. "Your clothes were on the floor," she said. "They are always on the floor. The stove was on the floor. I told you to get a table and put the stove up on the table. But you said Ha Ha. You always say Ha Ha. You don't do anything in this house." She took up a bottle and began to hit her husband.

"Stop!" cried my mother. "Stop hitting him. Thank God the baby's burn is not bad. You can get new clothes. You can get a new bed. But you cannot get a new baby. I will cook some food for you. Perhaps after this there will be no more accidents."



Mrs Ha Ha laughed. "You are right," she said. "I will find boxes and put the stove and the bottles on a box. Then tomorrow my husband can get a table."

Julius Ha laughed. "You are right," he said. "I will look after baby. Boys can look after babies."



Mr Ha Ha Ha laughed and laughed. He put on his good shirt. He put on his good coat. He put on his good hat.

"Cook us some food," he said. "Give me some beer. And after that I will go and cut the long grass."

And he did!





## GAME - Inside and outside the Ha Ha house

Look at the two pictures. In each of these pictures there are ten things wrong that can cause accidents. Count the things. Try the game on your friends. Try it with your little brothers and sisters. See who does it very fast. See who cannot find all the wrong things. The answers are upside down on this page.

10 Swarm of bees.  
8 Broken glass in compound. 9 Rusty car body.  
ladder against house. 7 Termite eaten latrine.  
grass with snakes. 5 Bad driver on road. 6 Broken  
fence. 3 Nails sticking from fence post. 4 Long  
1 Tree with breaking branch. 2 Water pond with no

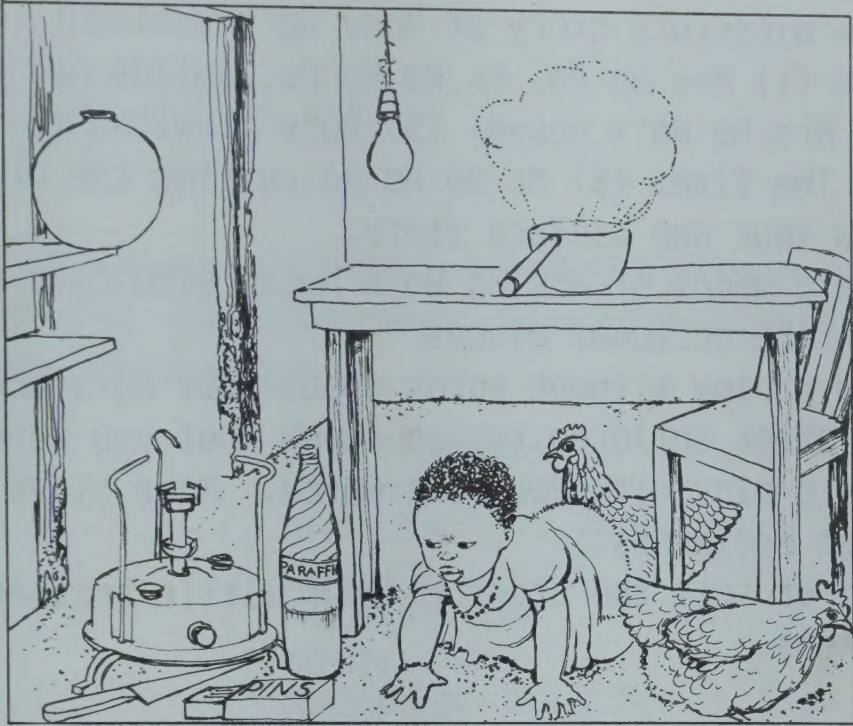
### PICTURE 2 - Outside the Ha Ha House

sticking out.  
eaten door frame. 10 Hot pan on table with handle  
marked 'pins' with baby crawling near it. 9 Termite  
7 Heavy pot on shelf about to fall down. 8 Box  
5 Knives on floor. 6 Paraffin bottle on floor.  
frayed string. 3 Chickens. 4 Stove on floor.  
1 Chair with broken leg. 2 Lamp from ceiling with

### PICTURE 1 - Inside the Ha Ha House

## THINGS TO DO

- 1 Find out accident places in your home, outside your home, in your school.
- 2 Draw an accident map of your home, or your school, show the accident places.





- 3 Draw a picture story of Baby Ha's accident.  
Draw (1) Mrs Ha Ha, Mr Ha Ha Ha, Julius and Baby Ha.  
(2) Mrs Ha Ha's house. (3) Baby crawling to the stove.  
(4) The fire; (5) Mr Ha Ha Ha cutting the grass.
- 4 Draw your own picture story.
- 5 Make a model of Mrs Ha Ha's house with clay and grass.  
Show the accident places.
- 6 Make a play without words about Baby Ha's accident.  
Let other children try to think what you were doing.
- 7 Make a play with your own words. Make plays about  
other accidents.
- 8 Read or tell the story to your little brothers and  
sisters.

REMEMBER!

Find accident places near you.

Make fires safe.

Make stoves safe.

Make the floor safe.

Keep bottles away from babies.

Put sharp things away safely.

Cut long grass.

Look after baby.

Watch little children.

Keep them away from

- the road
- the fire and the stove
- accident places.



The CHILD-to-child stories are edited by Paula Edwards, illustrated by Joan Gammans and written by a group of teachers and doctors:

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## ***WHAT IS CHILD-to-child?***

CHILD-to-child is an International Programme which teaches and encourages children of school age to concern themselves with the health, welfare and general development of their younger pre-school brothers and sisters and of other younger children in their community.

Each of the stories in this series of readers is based on the CHILD-to-child concept of one child helping another.

It is hoped too that children will read these stories to their younger brothers and sisters thus giving practical expression to the CHILD-to-child idea.

*Titles in this series:*

DIRTY WATER  
A SAD STORY  
A SIMPLE CURE  
GOOD FOOD  
TEACHING DANI  
ACCIDENTS  
THE ANSWER TEAM  
DOWN WITH FEVER

Printed by  
Manton (Westminster) Ltd  
Foredown Drive, Portslade  
Brighton